Date: February 23, 2004 Label No. EV369584300US I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

| Donald Prater | V.S. Yack |
|---------------|-----------|
| Name (Print)  | Signature |

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re Application of: TSUNOBUCHI et al. | )  | Examiner: Unassigned         |
|---|----|------------------------------|
| Application No.: Unassigned             | )  | Group Art Unit: Unassigned   |
| Filed: February 23, 2004                | ). | Confirmation No.: Unassigned |
| Docket No.: 3140-010-01                 | )  | Customer No.: 33432          |

For: OPTICAL INFORMATION READER AND OPTICAL INFORMATION READING METHOD

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Va 22313-1450

February 23, 2004

Sir:

Prior to payment of the filing fees and examination of the above-identified application on the merits, the applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 13 of this paper.